THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) 57,493 claims were registered with the Custodian of Enemy Property, out of which 24,163 claim cases have been disposed so far. 21,659 have been treated as dormant and 11,671 claim cases remain to be processed which are expected to be settled within a period of two or three years.

(c) To expedite verification of claim the position is reviewed from time to time and various steps are taken to dispose off pending claims.

Steps taken so far are:--

(i) Increase of panel members from 8 to 18.

(ii) Shifting of payment Office from Bombay to Calcutta.

(iii) Increase of honorarium to panel members.

(iv) Advertisements in Newspapers calling upon batches of claimants to submit documents.

(v) Proviison of additional staff etc.

Development of mining districts

3376. DR. R. K PODDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan or programme in respect of the mining districts to restore the imbalances created and to restore the denuded, de-surfaced areas for developmental activities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Government has, in the first instance, identified 10 coal fields for preparation of Advance Environmental Management Plans. These plans, which include action plans for carrying out environmentally compartible mining operations and for ecological restoration of mined areas, have so far been prepared for three coalfields namely Talcher, North Karanpura and Singrauli. Such plans for the seven coalfields namely Jharia, Raniganj, Godavari Valley, Wardha Valley, Ib Valley, East Bokaro and West Bokaro Coalfields are being prepared. Besides, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd., (CMPDIL) has also carried out a survey of all abandoned coal mines and suggested reclamation including ecological restoration of over five hundred of such mines.

Chakma refugee camps in Tripura

3377. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindu' of the 4th July, 1988 about the problems of Chakma refugees who are in the camp of South Tripura;

(b) whether it is a fact that ration meant for the refugees is being sold in the black market;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the refugees are being used as bonded labour by the contractors under PWD with the connivance of the camp authorities and the Mobile Task Force officials; and

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, what is the outcome thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disposal of claims applications received from Erstwhile East Pakistan refugees

3378. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan claiming compensation for the property they had lost/left in that country before migrating to India during the last ten years;

(b) how many of such applicaions have been verified and compensation valued;

(c) whether full verified claims have been paid to them; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the progress made in Government of India's attempt to settle the compensation issue of the refugees in their talks with the Bangladesh Government; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Bengladesh Government are selling away the properties of refugees who have crossed over to India; if so, whether Government of India have taken up the matter with that Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) 57,493 claims were registered with the Custodian of Enemy Property, out of which 24,163 claims cases have been disposed so far. 21,659 claims have been treated as dormant and 11,671 claim cases remain to be processed. An amount of Rs. 62.26 crores has been paid as compensation so far.

(c) Ministry of Commerce administers payment of ex-gratia grant to Indian national/companies whose assets were seized by the Government of Pakistan during Indo-Pak conflict of 1965 and who registered their claim with the Custodian of Enemy Property within the stipulated date i.e. 31-7-1977. The relief is given in the form of ex-gratia grant from the Consolidated Fund of India at the rate of 25 per cent of the verified value of the claims. No further payment in addition to 25 per cent of the verified value of claims is admissible under Ex-Gratia Scheme.

(d) and (e) Government have been maintaining contact with the Bangladesh Government with a view to find a solution to the problem of vested property, seeking the return of such properties to their rightful owners or compensation in lieu. In this connection Government had also been requesting the Bangladesh Government not to dispose of such properties. The Bangladesh President announced in June, 1984 that the disposal of vested properties was being suspended forthwith.

Export of Gum Karaya

3379. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Gum Karaya is only permissible under foreign currency areas;

(b) if so, whether the canalising agency permitted the said export to rupee currency area in violation of the laid down norms of the export procedure;

(c) the number of complaints received from foreign buyers and the nature thereof; and

(d) the amount involved in claims lodged through complaints in the export of Gum Karaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.